

Remarks

Claims 1 through 20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 through 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Examiner has indicated that claims 1 through 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome this rejection.

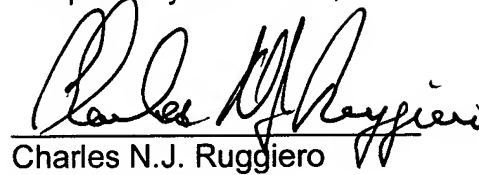
Claims 1 through 20 have been rewritten to overcome the rejection under §112 and are now allowable. Specifically, “valve” in line 1 of claim 1 has been changed to “valve means” to provide antecedent basis for “said valve means” in lines 7 and 8 of claim 1 and in subsequent dependent claims. Additionally, “said diaphragm means” in line 21 of claim 9 has been changed to “said diaphragm assembly” and now has a proper antecedent basis. Finally, as suggested by the Examiner, Applicant has rewritten line 5 of claim 16 to read “so as to relieve said vacuum.”

The Office Action has objected to the title of the invention as being non-descriptive. Applicant has deleted the title and replaced it with a title that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Support for the new title is found on page 2, lines 6 through 12. No new matter has been added.

Applicant sincerely appreciates Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter in the present application. In view of the above amendments, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 16, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N.J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

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